

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible polyurethane comprising a reaction product of

A) at least one polyether a1) having an average functionality of ≥ 3 and at least one urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of ≥ 4 ,

B) at least one C₆-C₂₂ monoalcohol,

C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate

D) a C₂-C₁₈-oxime and/or diamine with 2 to 18 carbon atoms,

E) optionally at least one C₄-C₁₈ monoisocyanate,

F) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of > 2 ;

wherein the starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio is between 0.5:1 to 1.2:1; and wherein the production of polyether alcohol mixture A) containing polyethers a1) and urethane group-containing polyethers a2) has been carried out by the partial reaction of polyethers a1) with at least one organic polyisocyanate having a functionality of ≥ 2 , and wherein up to 50 mole % of polyethers are reacted with isocyanates.

Claims 9-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 3 to 4.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 4 to 6.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein

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component B) comprises a C₆-C₂₂ monoalcohol.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein component B) comprises a C₈-C₁₈ monoalcohol.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein component B) comprises a C₆-C₁₄ monoalcohol.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the component C) comprises a (cyclo)aliphatic diisocyanate.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented): A process for the production of the water-soluble or waterdispersible polyurethane of Claim 8, comprising reacting

A) a mixture of at least one polyether polyol a1) having a mean functionality of ≥ 3 and at least 1 urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of ≥ 4 ,

B) at least one C₆-C₂₂ monoalcohol,

C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate,

D) a C₂-C₁₈ oxime and/or diamine with 2 to 18 carbon atoms,

E) optionally at least one C₄-C₁₈ monoisocyanate, and

F) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of > 2 at a starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio of 0.5:1 to 1.2:1.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 23, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) comprises the reaction product of the polyether polyol a1) with a diisocyanate.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): The process of one of Claims 23 and 24, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) comprises the reaction product of the polyether polyol a1) with polyisocyanates having an average functionality of 2.

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Claim 26. (Previously Presented): A process for adjusting the flow properties of an aqueous paint system, adhesive and another aqueous formulation comprising adding the polyurethane of Claim 8 thereto.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): An aqueous paint system, adhesive and another aqueous formulation comprising the polyurethane of Claim 8.

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